

TEACHERS' TOUR

2021



Photo: Elaine Rankin



Photo: Emily Oakman

The SC Sustainable Forestry Teachers' Tour was held June 21-25 in Georgetown, SC. Twenty-one teachers from across South Carolina participated. They visited forests, logging operations, and wood product mills and were given a comprehensive overview of SC's \$21 billion forest industry, looking at forestry's economic, environmental, and social impact. They learned about sustainable forestry practices, conservation, endangered species, careers in forestry, and much more.

A Sponsors Dinner was held at the conclusion of the program. Special thanks was expressed to all the Tour Sponsors, speakers, and participants.

"What seemed to impress the teachers the most was that forestry really is a science, and through proper management, our forests in the state are productive, diverse, and sustainable," said Emily Oakman, the Forestry Association's Director of Landowner Outreach, Forestry Education and Programs. Oakman also served as a program instructor. ■



Oakman

COMMENTS From A Few Of The Participants

- I have a new perception of the importance of forestry, the efforts and commitment to conservation from the industry, and the passion everyone working in the industry has. – *Tanya Towne, Joe Adair Outdoor Education Center, grades K-8th, Laurens, SC*
- This class changed my mind about the logging business. I always thought loggers were careless, but the amount of planning and work just to keep things “green” is amazing. – *Tami Sickels, Pickens Elementary School, 3rd grade, Pickens, SC*
- A new perception I gained is how timber is a crop, it just takes 25 years to harvest. Plus, the technology involved in harvesting and in the mills is something I didn't know about before this week. – *Rick Edwards, Daniel High School, grades 9th-12th, Central, SC*
- Tree farming – I had no idea there were so many stages from ground preparation to final harvest!
– *Lynn Hoekstra – 2019 South Carolina PLT Teacher of the Year, Carolina International University, Columbia, SC*
- I came into this without an opinion – and am now leaving with one. I appreciate the different moving parts that the mills and the other companies/professionals shared. They all impact one another. – *Lori Yanders, Goose Creek Elementary School, grade 5, Goose Creek, SC*
- The industry is not only sustainable, but also aware and proactive towards the future of the land, the earth, and the ecology.
– *Tricia Kyzer, Wild Oak Independent School, grades 5th – 6th, Oconee, SC*



Photo of a second thinning at RMS with Delta Timber Co. in Georgetown, SC was taken by Crad Jaynes.



Three participants pause for a quick snapshot during the tour.



Photo of Canfor Southern Pine mill tour in Conway, SC was taken by Crad Jaynes.

The 2021 SC Teachers' Tour stops included:

- John Spearman's Tree Farm [Spearman is 2004 Regional Tree Farmer Of The Year, and 1999 SC Tree Farmer Of The Year]
- Canfor Southern Pine's sawmill
- Forests managed by Resource Management Service
- Black River Cypress Preserve
- International Paper's paper mill
- Francis Marion National Forest
- Horry-Georgetown Technical College
- Hobcaw Barony

Tour SPONSORS & CONTRIBUTORS

The Tour was hosted by the Forestry Association of SC, SC Forestry Commission, SC Sustainable Forestry Initiative Implementation Committee, and SC Timber Producers Association.

Black River Cypress Preserve/Erin Pate and Jonathan Keyzer; Canfor Southern Pine/Davis McGowen; Francis Marion National Forest/Alton Gaskins & Forestry Employees; Horry-Georgetown Technical College/Amy McGrath & Deanna Ruth; International Paper/Justin Demiter; Leo Lambert Logging Inc./Donnie Lambert; Palmetto Pulpwood & Timber/David & Druanne Freeman; Resource Management Service/Joey Ferguson [Forestry Association's 2014 Chairman]; Sabine & Waters/Ryan Wenzel; SC Advocates for Agriculture/Ronnie Summers [former FASC Board member]; SC Tree Farm Committee/Gary Hermann & Committee; Sonoco Forest Products/Tim Kirven [FASC Board member]; John and May Spearman; WestRock/Tom Lassiter and Eric Smith [former FASC Board members]; White Oak Forest Management/Amy McFadden [Forestry Association's 2013 Chairwoman]; and Winyah Chapter of SAF & the Baruch Foundation/George Chastain [former FASC Board member].